

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It is an abuse of this privilege to impose a slanted political program without offering equal time for a reply. Giant corporations like Sinclair regularly act as if immune from public responsibility, while making a profit through control of the public airwaves--and, indeed, trying to prevent other voices from being heard. Under such conditions we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.